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Key Agencies

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INTRODUCTION

Partnerships exist between IDEM and other agencies at the state, regional, and federal level that support watershed protection and nonpoint source management. These partnerships have been classified into three groups: primary partners, secondary partners, and permitting authorities. Primary partners are those with a direct role in nonpoint source pollution control that IDEM will work to partner with in implementing NPS pollution reduction activities. Secondary partners are those agencies that have no direct involvement with nonpoint source pollution control, but through their other activities, they can have an impact. Permitting authorities are those agencies whose can impact nonpoint source pollution through the permits they issue. The following appendix names these agencies and describes their mission and role in Indiana's approach to nonpoint source management to the extent available.

PARTNERS

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD)

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) work toward a shared purpose: to coordinate assistance from available sources (public and private, local, state and federal) in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns. The mission of the IASWCD is to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance needed to implement economically and environmentally compatible land and water stewardship decisions, practices, and technologies. The local SWCDs are a resource for residents, especially farmers and rural residents, in matters of land conservation and prevention of soil erosion. Nonpoint source pollution reduction is achieved through the implementation of IASWCD practices. IASWCD publishes a brochure on proper fertilizer use to minimize phosphorus. The IASWCD's website references IDEM's office of water quality for their publications related to water quality issues such as NPS.

<http://www.iaswcd.org/>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – Coastal Zone Management Program

The purpose of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) is to support coordination and partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and local organizations for the protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the Lake Michigan region. The Coastal Zone Management Program created a coastal nonpoint pollution control program document which is available on their website. The NPS Management Plan, developed by IDEM, addressed nonpoint source pollution to coastal areas and the IDNR Coastal Zone Program will be a part of the implementation.

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/program/index.html>

IDNR – Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE)

The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities (<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/7032.htm>). This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards. The LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects. Approved grant funding may be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- Investigations to determine what problems are affecting a lake/lakes or a stream segment
- Evaluation of identified problems and effective action recommendations to resolve those problems
- Cost-sharing with land users in a watershed above upstream from a project lake or stream for installation or application of sediment and nutrient reducing practices on their land

PARTNERS

- Matching federal funds for qualifying projects
- Watershed management plan development
- Feasibility studies to define appropriate lake and stream remediation measures
- Engineering designs and construction of remedial measures
- Water quality monitoring of public lakes
- Management of invasive aquatic vegetation
- Sediment removal from qualifying lakes

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS works to conserve natural resources on private lands by providing technical assistance, conservation planning, and program information support to private land users. One way NRCS encompasses NPS pollution awareness and prevention is through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program which has a ranking sheet that has questions related to whether or not a watershed is on IDEM's 303(d) list, the proximity to a body of water without an appropriate grass buffer, and erosion potential. NRCS materials include extensive information on sediment erosion prevention which can be beneficial to those involved in NPS management. <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>

PERMITTING AGENCIES

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state, and county offices. Through the FSA's work with the agricultural community, they can help in the education of farmers in the prevention of soil erosion and NPS pollution.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=in&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landi ng>

DNR – Division of Reclamation

The Division of Reclamation is responsible for oversight of active coal mining and restoration of land disturbed for coal extraction. The Division of Reclamation states on their website that “All water affected by the mining operation must pass through approved sediment control structures before leaving the mine site to prevent water pollution.” The operator must comply not only with the mining laws, but also applicable state and federal water quality laws, including obtaining water discharge permits issued by IDEM. Siltation structures must remain until permanent vegetation is well established and water entering the pond meets water quality standards. Ponds not approved for retention after mining must be filled and reclaimed.” IDEM permits approved for mining operations can be used to ensure compliance with any NPS management programs needed.

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/reclamation/5483.htm>

Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)

The mission of the Indiana Geological Survey is to provide geologic information and counsel that contribute to the wise stewardship of the energy, mineral, and water resources of the state. The IGS primarily focuses on groundwater. The IGS has applied for, and received, past 319 funding for NPS projects. A recent document was entitled “Evaluation of Riparian Buffer Zones using GIS and Remote Sensing to Target Watershed Restoration Efforts.” The IGS's knowledge of mapping to aid in water quality evaluation/improvements can be utilized by IDEM to assess its program.

<http://igs.indiana.edu/>

1. Geological Sciences Building at Indiana University in Bloomington, home of the Indiana Geological Survey.
2. Rocky Hollow at Turkey Run State Park. For more information go to Time Travel through Turkey Run State Park's Past.
(<http://igs.indiana.edu/geology/ancient/turkeyRunPast/index.cfm>)
3. IGS research scientist Erik Kvale collects a coal sample.

PERMITTING AGENCIES

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

INDOT's mission is to build, maintain, and operate the state's transportation system with the goal of enhancing safety, mobility and economic growth. INDOT publishes documents that assist those pursuing transportation projects in complying with environmental rules, applying for waterway permits, and preparing environmental studies. INDOT normally references IDEM's Rule 5 for erosion control.

<http://www.in.gov/dot/>

Indiana State Department of Agriculture – Soil (ISDA)

All Indiana SWCDs are under the jurisdiction of the ISDA. The Division of Soils Indiana Conservation Partnership works to prevent soil erosion in the area of the historic dust bowl. The ISDA's state Soil Conservation Board's Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grants Program provides Indiana's Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) with a great opportunity to showcase pilot programs of what Hoosier conservationists can do when given the resources to make a difference. The ISDA can be a partner to IDEM in the control of NPS pollution related to agricultural activities.

<http://www.in.gov/isda/index.htm#>

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

ISDOH regulates onsite wastewater disposal systems. ISDH has developed standards for the construction and maintenance of onsite disposal systems. Faulty onsite disposal systems can be a source of NPS pollution and any efforts put forth by IDEM related to these systems will need to include ISDH.

<http://www.state.in.us/isdh/regsvcs/saneng/default.htm>

National Park Service (NPS)

NPS is responsible for the management of the Indiana Dune National Lakeshore and the stormwater runoff in it. The NPS has programs in place to limit the amount of shoreline erosion taking place. The management of the Indiana Dunes would also be related to the IDNR Coastal Zone Management Program, and efforts to decrease NPS pollution will include all agencies.

<http://www.nps.gov/indu/>

Indiana State Chemist, Office of (OICS)

The Indiana State Chemist is charged with administering several agricultural laws involving seeds, fertilizer, animal feeds, and pesticides. Pesticide Management is addressed in a document entitled, "Estimating Groundwater Vulnerability to Nonpoint Source Pollution from Nitrates and Pesticides on a Regional Scale." Enforcement of laws regarding fertilizer and pesticide use and storage can improve NPS pollution and would be of interest to IDEM.

<http://www.isco.purdue.edu/>

PERMITTING AGENCIES

Office of Surface Mines – US Department of Interior

The Office of Surface Mines is the Federal agency that oversees the IDNR – Division of Reclamation. The State of Indiana has the authority to administer the mine reclamation program. This agency may be involved in activities to assist the state mitigating NPS pollution.
<http://www.osmre.gov/>

US Forest Service – Hoosier National Forest

The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service focuses on forest management and can have an impact on NPS pollution through the management measures chosen for use in the State's national forest. The forest management plan for Hoosier National Forest has a discussion of BMPs that can be used to control point and nonpoint pollution.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/>

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

USFWS's mission is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Environmental Quality Program has contaminants specialists who review environmental documents, legislation, regulations, permits, and licenses with pollution potential to ensure that harmful effects on fish, wildlife, and plants are avoided or minimized. This review includes analysis of documents and permits related to control of nonpoint source pollution from agriculture and urban runoff; point source pollution from industrial and municipal waste treatment facilities; and discharges of dredge and fill material. These reviews can identify areas for NPS pollution control improvements that the State can focus on.
<http://www.fws.gov/>

US Geological Survey (USGS)

The mission of the USGS is to serve the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life. The National Water Quality Assessment Program researches water quality and nonpoint sources in urban watersheds. The USGS has published reports on nonpoint and point sources of nitrogen in major watersheds of the United States, including an analysis of the White River in Indiana. USGS can provide valuable research and sampling assistance to the State.
<http://www.usgs.gov/>

PERMITTING AGENCIES

US Department of Defense

The US Department of Defense (DOD) is the federal agency in charge of Indiana military installations. DOD staff can assist IDEM by making sure that all measures are being taken to keep NPS pollution at a minimum on all military installations in Indiana.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

FHWA is charged with the broad responsibility of ensuring that America's roads and highways continue to be the safest and most technologically up-to-date. Although state, local, and tribal governments own most of the nation's highways, FHWA provides financial and technical support to them for constructing, improving, and preserving America's highway system. One of their strategic goals is to protect and enhance the natural environment and communities affected by highway transportation. FHWA publishes a reference document entitled "Stormwater Best Management Practices in an Ultra-Urban Setting: Selection and Monitoring" (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ultraurb/>) which is used to select BMPs for use in controlling storm runoff and water quality. Proper use of the information provided by FHWA can help to minimize NPS pollution on highway projects.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>